

## WE CLAIM:

1           1. A transport/storage container for heat-generating  
2 nuclear-fuel elements, the container comprising:  
3           spaced inner and outer side walls defining an annular  
4 space extending along an axis and having upper and lower ends;  
5           a cover at the upper end;  
6           a floor at the lower end;  
7           a plurality of axially extending and angularly spaced  
8 heat-conducting metal tubes each having an inner wall section  
9 bearing in surface contact on an outer surface of the inner side  
10 wall and an outer wall section bearing in surface contact on an  
11 inner surface of the outer side wall;  
12           a filler mass in the space.

1           2. The transport/storage container defined in claim 1  
2 wherein the tubes have radially extending wall sections that are  
3 elastically deformed.

1           3. The transport/storage container defined in claim 1  
2 wherein the inner and outer wall sections of the tubes are soft  
3 annealed.

1           4. The transport/storage container defined in claim 1  
2 wherein the tubes are of quadrilateral cross section.

1           5. The transport/storage container defined in claim 1  
2 wherein each tube extends generally a full axial length of the  
3 space.

1           6. The transport/storage container defined in claim 1  
2 wherein each of the inner and outer wall sections has a curvature  
3 complementary to a curvature of the respective inner and outer  
4 side wall.

1           7. The transport/storage container defined in claim 1  
2 wherein the tubes are angularly equispaced, the container further  
3 comprising

4           axially extending and angularly spaced spacer strips  
5 fixed to the outer surface of the inner wall between the tubes.

1           8. The transport/storage container defined in claim 1  
2 wherein the tubes are of generally rectangular section.

1           9. The transport/storage container defined in claim 1  
2 wherein the inner and outer surfaces have a release-agent  
3 coating.

1           10. The transport/storage container defined in claim 9  
2 wherein the coating is an epoxy lacquer.

1           11. The transport/storage container defined in claim 1  
2 wherein the floor comprises an inner floor panel and an outer  
3 floor panel spaced axially therefrom and the tubes each have a  
4 pair of generally radially and axially extending wall sections,  
5 the container further comprising:

6           L-shaped connector strips each having one end fixed to  
7 an outer surface of the inner floor panel and an opposite end;  
8 and

9           respective clips securing the opposite ends to the  
10 radially extending wall sections of the tubes.